farmers. My question is about subsidy that is being given. It seems from the answer that this subsidy is given only to the exporters and the farmers are deprived of it. Madam, here is a Government which is farmer-friendly and is being led by the son of a farmer. Then why is it happening? The exporters are earning crores of rupees as profit, and, at the same time, they are getting subsidy. For example, the exporters of grapes are being given subsidy. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question House is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Disinvestment in IOC and VSNL

*241. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Disinvestment Commission to recommend the names of PSUs in which disinvestment should be made;

(b) if so, the details of the functions of this Commission;

(c) whether this Commission has recommend disinvestment of two blue chip PSUs viz., Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL);

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made; and

(e) if not, the reasons for which disinvestment in these PSUs has begun?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (A) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Commission have been notified in the Gazette on 23.8.1996. A copy is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Disinvestment of 5% equity in IOC and 7% of Government's equity in VSNL (5.64% of total equity) is proposed for the current year to raise resources as indicated in the budget for 1996-97. The process regarding selection of these companies had started prior to the establishment of the Commission and is continuing. Disinvestment from the 3rd tranche for 1996-97 would be done on the advice of the Disinvestment Commission.

COPY OF THE GAZETTE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

(Department of Public Enterprises)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 23rd August, 1996

No. 11013/3/96-Admn-In pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, Government hereby constitutes a Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, initially for a period of three years.

2. The composition of the Commission will be as follows:—

1. Shri G.V. Ramakrishna, Full-time Chairman
2. Shri Dipankar Basu, Part-time Member
3. Shri M.R.R. Nair, Part-time Member
4. Dr. Suresh Tendulkar, Part-time Member
5. Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa, Part-time Member

The Commission will have a full-time Secretary who will be appointed separately.

3. The broad terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:—

(i) To draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group.

(ii) To determine the extent of disinvestment (total/partial indicat-

ing percentage) in each of the PSU.

(iii) To prioritise the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group in terms of the overall disinvestment programmes.

(iv) To recommend the preferred mode (s) of disinvestment (domestic capital markets/international capital markets/auction/private sale to identified investors/any other) for each of the identified PSUs. Also to suggest an appropriate mix of the various alternatives taking into account the market conditions.

(v) To recommend a mix between primary and secondary disinvestment taking into account the Government's objective, the relevant PSU's funding requirement and the market conditions.

(vi) To supervise the overall sale process and take decisions on instrument, pricing, timing, etc. as appropriate.

(vii) To select the financial advisers for the specified PSUs to facilitate the disinvestment process.

(viii) To ensure that appropriate measures are taken during the disinvestment process to protect the interest of the affected employees including encouraging employees' participation in the sale process.

(ix) To monitor the progress of disinvestment process and take necessary measures and report periodically to the Government on such progress.

(x) To assist the government to create public awareness of the Government's disinvestment policies and programmes with a view to developing a commitment by the people.

(xi) To give wide publicity to the disinvestment proposals so as to ensure larger public participation in the share-holding of the enterprises; and

(xii) To advise the Government on possible capital restructuring of the enterprises by marginal investments, if required, so as to ensure enhanced realisation through disinvestment.

4. The Disinvestment Commission will be an advisory body and the Government will take a final decision on the companies to be disinvested and mode of disinvestment on the basis of advice given by the Disinvestment Commission. The PSUs would implement the decision of the Government under the overall supervision of the Disinvestment Commission.

5. The Commission while advising the Government on the above matters will also take into consideration the interests of stakeholders, workers, consumers and other having a stake in the relevant public sector undertakings.

S. TALWAR, Jt. Secy.

ORDER

Ordered that the resolution be published in the Gazette of India. Ordered also that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and all central public sector undertakings.

S. TALWAR, Jt. Secy.

New Delhi,
Dated: 23-8-1996.

Schemes for Welfare and Development of Weaker and Vulnerable Sections

*242. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes formulated for the welfare and development of weaker and vulnerable sections of society such as SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, destitute children,